



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Mitt Romney, Governor ♦ Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor ♦ Jane Wallis Gumble, Director

Public Housing Notice 2004-04

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: All Local Housing Authorities
FROM: Carole E. Collins, Director, Bureau of Housing Management
RE: Amended Definition of Veteran
DATE: August 25, 2004

Enclosed please find a copy of c. 116 of the Acts of 2004 amending clause Forty-third of chapter 4, section 7. MGL c. 121B provides that any person who is a veteran as defined in clause Forty-third of section seven of chapter four is a veteran under c. 121B. The amended definition is effective August 30, 2004 and applies to both local housing authority applicants and tenants.

Also enclosed is a chart that summarizes each of the categories of veteran according to the amended definition. You will note that the definition now includes persons having served not only during wartime but those having served during peacetime. Additionally certain National Guard service, US Coast Guard service, and American Merchant Marine service is included.

In order to apply this amended definition properly to applicants, LHAs will need to conduct an application update. Each pending family applicant not currently receiving veteran preference should be contacted and provided the opportunity to apply for veteran preference. Local resident c. 667 applicants also not currently receiving veteran preference should be contacted as well. Applicants should be provided a reasonable period of time to apply for veteran preference. (We suggest 3 weeks.) All applicant requests received by the authority by its established due date will be reviewed and if found to be a veteran under the amended definition receive veteran preference effective August 30, 2004. New control numbers should be assigned to reflect the new preference. Assignment of new control numbers should be in an order which corresponds to the order of applicants' original control number. Responses received after the due date established by the authority will be processed with new control numbers assigned based on the date of return. We have provided a form for your use when updating applicant information.

You should note that the definition of veteran includes the veteran's spouse, surviving spouse or other dependent.

DHCD's Universal Application will be revised effective August 30, 2004 to allow for all veterans to apply for veteran preference.

If you have any questions, please contact your housing management specialist.